



Medical School Hotline

Vision for the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM)

Edwin C. Cadman MD
Dean

This is an excellent medical school, but we can become better.

Aspiration and dreams of excellence will require examining what it is we wish our medical school to become. The successes of a medical school are measured in many ways. For a community, the yardstick is often related to the positive influence it has on the well-being of its citizens' health and the impact it has on advancement of science. For a single individual, it maybe how effective someone was at the school in assisting to resolve a personal illness or identify an appropriate referral to a competent physician.

Medical schools are expected to be leaders in many clinical settings. These include the study and evaluation of human health and disease to improve the health of groups of people and to conduct investigations in the basic sciences of the molecular biology of disease. Medical schools provide the clinical leadership in selected areas where innovation and clinical research are required to advance and improve diagnostic capabilities and treatment options. My vision for JABSOM is to become more involved in research activities critical to the future understanding of diseases and become recognized leaders in the burgeoning biomedical revolution.

A challenge will be to include programs devoted to measuring and documenting differences between good patient care and outstanding patient care and communicating these findings to patients and physicians. Physicians must be the paragons of excellence in medical care and communicate effectively with patients and their families. Patients can then learn what excellent medical care is, so that they can become involved in the decision process regarding their diagnosis and treatment.

Medical schools have the responsibility for the leadership in continuing medical education of its faculty, local physicians, and other health care professionals within its region. Some schools have assumed leadership roles in the use of technology in assisting physicians and patients achieve access to medical knowledge and care options. These efforts require enhancement so that JABSOM can become a site of choice for continuing medical education for physicians from the mainland and Asia.

Most importantly, medical schools have the sustaining reputation of being the crucible of new knowledge that affects and advances the understanding of health and disease to improve patient care. The commitment to education is the foundation on which medical schools are built. A significant measure of success can be determined by the quality of students and their future successes in whatever they choose. JABSOM's students are similar in their academic accomplishments from those students in the best medical schools in the country. This School stands out as a leader in its commitment to accepting students from diverse cultural/ethnic background, and has the reputation of being the most ethnically

diverse school in the country. We have proven that diversity is an asset.

The School graduated its first four-year class in 1975. Currently, there are 1,554 alumni. Sixty percent of Hawaii's physicians are graduates of JABSOM or trained in Hawaii's residency programs. Last year there were 1,096 applicants for a class of 62, 37% were graduates of the University of Hawaii. Seven were out-of-state residents.

A decade ago, JABSOM began a new curriculum, Problem Based Learning (PBL), a radical departure from the traditional training process, which was two years of lecture followed by two years of practical experience in a hospital and clinics. PBL focuses on specific patient diagnosis or a set of clinical problems from the first day of school. The learning is done in small groups referred to as tutorials of 5 to 6 students supervised by faculty. The focus of these tutorials is to stimulate the student into thinking about information and analyzing data. JABSOM has received national recognition for this program, and the majority of the applicants seek admission because of it. My vision is to build on the successes of this innovative educational program and use the new electronic technology to enhance the educational process. In so doing, segments of the program could be exported to other schools and medical students, as well as to the neighbor islands and the Pacific region.

In addition to excelling in student education and to achieve a national reputation of excellence, a medical school must demonstrate excellence in both clinical and basic research. Fortunately, funds are available from federal and private sources for which we can compete to support our research initiatives. The most outstanding medical schools generate dollars from national funding sources and are not dependent on state funds for all of their support. The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a federal agency whose major purpose is to support biomedical research, mainly through a competitive grant process. It has a budget of 15.7 billion dollars; and, both the Republicans and Democrats are committed to doubling this funding over 5 years. In the 2000 budget, there is an additional 2.3 billion dollars earmarked for the NIH, which will bring the total NIH spending authority to 18 billion dollars. Private foundations such as the American Cancer Society, American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute and pharmaceutical companies contribute in excess of 50 billion dollars towards the nation's biomedical research efforts. My vision is to recruit physician-scientists, as well as basic science investigators, who can compete successfully for these dollars. Faculty will be recruited whose research will influence the future of how we think about normal and abnormal conditions. From laboratory discoveries, we can improve our diagnostic capabilities and treatment options. The future will include better identification of people at risk for disease and illness; and, therefore, a key component of our school's future will include prevention strategies.

Biomedical and clinical research is an industry that can become an economic engine. Successful investigators bring new dollars into a region and state through their grants and contracts. In many instances, these can average 1-2 million dollars annually for each research team. These research teams will hire support staff, including research technicians, administrative personnel, and provide the training opportunities for young scientists and physicians who will be the future faculty and practitioners. Added to these immediate

benefits, discoveries made in these laboratories will often be the genesis of new small biotech companies that develop in the surrounding communities.

Currently, many of JABSOM's faculty are leaders in their chosen fields of investigation, but more are needed. An infrastructure will be provided so that faculty, current and future, can become even better at what they do in the context of a long-range strategic plan that establishes the areas of excellence.

By establishing high goals and looking beyond the nearest horizon, JABSOM can achieve a national reputation for excellence in many areas. An outstanding medical school sets the standards of health care expectations. We can become outstanding, and we will! As your Dean, I look forward to communicating with you and our community to demonstrate the value and impact of the John A. Burns School of Medicine on our State and region.



Letter to the Editor


To: Russell T. Stodd MD, editor of the Weathervane Column and members of Hawaii Medical Association

Re: Article about John M. Zelko MD (Sept. 1999, Vol. 58, No. 9)

I received a copy of the September issue of the Hawaii Medical Journal and read the article about my dad in the "Weathervane" section. I wanted to personally thank Dr. Stodd for including the article and thank all the members of the Hawaii Medical Association who supported my dad though his ordeal with the DEA. Indeed it was a farce, but it hurt him deeply. He was a kind, giving individual who strived to take care of each person as if they were part of the family.

Dr. Zelko's family is deeply grateful for all your support and for the recognition in the "Weathervane" section of the Hawaii Medical Journal. We hope the community will remember him for his dedication to excellence and his desire to improve peoples' lives. Thanks again.

Sincerely,
Steven Zelko MD



American Heart Association®
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke

Help Your Heart Recipes

This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day — not for each food or recipe.

Chocolate Oatmeal Cookies

<p>1½ cups firmly packed light brown sugar</p> <p>½ cup sifted unsweetened cocoa powder</p> <p>½ cup fat-free milk</p> <p>¼ cup light margarine, softened</p> <p>¼ cup pureed prunes, unsweetened baby food prunes, or fat-free fruit-based oil and margarine replacement</p>	<p>2 teaspoons vanilla extract</p> <p>1¼ cups all-purpose flour</p> <p>2½ teaspoons baking powder</p> <p>¼ teaspoon salt</p> <p>1½ cups uncooked quick-cooking oatmeal</p>
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Preheat oven to 350° F.

In a large mixing bowl, cream brown sugar, cocoa powder, milk, margarine, prunes, and vanilla. In a small bowl, sift together flour, baking powder, and salt. Beat into margarine mixture. Stir in oatmeal.

Drop by teaspoonfuls onto ungreased baking sheets.
(You should have about 60 cookies.)

Bake for 7 to 9 minutes, or until set in the center.

Serves 30; 2 cookies per serving.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving

105 kcal	0 mg Cholesterol	0 g Saturated Fat	
2 g Protein	77 mg Sodium	0 g Polyunsaturated Fat	
23 g Carbohydrates	1 g Total Fat	0 g Monounsaturated Fat	
1 g Fiber			

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